

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161901 TOSEC 060030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - COMMUNIQUE OF PORTUGUESE
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (S/S NO.7514014) ,

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

THE JULY 9 COMMUNIQUE OF THE 240 MAN AFM ASSEMBLY WILL,
IF IT IS IMPLEMENTED, MOVE PORTUGAL SEVERAL STEPS
CLOSER TO BECOMING A MARXIST MILITARY REGIME. IN ITS
18-HOUR DEBATE OVER THE JUNE 21 COMMUNIQUE OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND RELATED SUBJS, THE AFM
ASSEMBLY IGNORED THE COUNCIL'S ANODYNE
STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF POLITICAL PLURALISM AND -- AS
EXPECTED -- FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY UPON THE
COUNCIL'S MOST RADICAL POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS: COLLECTIVI-
ZATION OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, CREATION OF A FORMAL
STRUCTURE OF AFM LINKAGES TO SO-CALLED "POPULAR" GROUPS
(THUS CIRCUMVENTING THE PARTIES COMPLETELY), AND
A SPEED-UP IN THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.

THE MOST RADICAL PROPOSAL IS THE CREATION OF "ORGANIZA-
TIONS OF THE PEOPLE" TO PROMOTE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE
THE REVOLUTION. THE CONCEPT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BORROWED
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FROM CUBA FOLLOWING A VISIT THERE LAST APRIL BY
SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL AFM LEADERS. IN ITS FINAL
COMMUNIQUE, THE AFM ASSEMBLY URGED THE REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT A DETAILED FIVE-STEP PLAN

UNDER WHICH GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS OF WORKERS, TENANTS, FARMERS, COOPERATIVES AND VILLAGE COUNCILS WOULD FORM THE BASIC UNIT OF "POPULAR PARTICIPATION." LATER, MUNICIPAL, DISTRICT AND REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES WILL BE FORMED. THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE FOLLOWED (IN THE LONGER TERM) BY THE CREATION OF A POPULAR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS "THE HIGHEST BODY OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION." THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, OF COURSE, WILL REMAIN AS THE HIGHEST BODY OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. AFM PARTICIPATION WILL BEGIN AT THE MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS THROUGH THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY LOCAL UNITS. AT EACH LEVEL IN THE POPULAR STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS WILL BE BY A SHOW OF HANDS -- A SYSTEM WHICH ENCOURAGES LEFTIST DOMINATION THROUGH SUCH TIME-HONORED TACTICS AS PACKING THE MEETINGS WITH "LOYAL" SUPPORTERS AND OUTRIGHT INTIMIDATION OF THOSE HOLDING IDEOLOGICALLY UNACCEPTABLE VIEWS.

WHERE ALL OF THIS LEAVES THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THE STILL TO BE ELECTED PARLIAMENT OR THE CIVILIAN POLITICAL PARTIES IS NOT TOTALLY CLEAR, BUT THE AFM COMMUNIQUE IS OMINOUS. IN STATING ITS GOALS, THE ASSEMBLY SAID THAT A SOCIALIST SOCIETY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH UNITED ACTION AND THAT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE CONCEPT OF UNITY IS "INDEPENDENCE FROM PARTISAN COMMITMENTS."

THERE ARE ONLY PRELIMINARY REACTIONS FROM THE PARTIES. MARIO SOARES' SOCIALISTS WENT INTO IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY SESSION, THE PPD EXPRESSED "CONSTERNATION, CONCERN AND REGRET" AND THE COMMUNISTS DECLARED THE COMMUNIQUE TO BE "EXTREMELY POSITIVE." HAVING INACCURATELY ASSESSED THE JUNE 21 STATEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AS BASICALLY MODERATE IN TONE AND INTENT, THE WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE NOW LIKELY TO REACT WITH SHOCK AND INDIGNATION. AS IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, THE KEY TO

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WESTERN EUROPEAN VIEWS ON PORTUGAL WILL BE HOW SOARES INTERPRETS HIS LATEST SET-BACK. INGERSOLL

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